



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Community Planning and Economic Development – Planning Division

Date: April 19, 2012

To: Council Member Gary Schiff, Chair, Zoning & Planning Committee
Committee members Goodman, Gordon, Johnson, Reich, Tuthill

Referral to: Zoning and Planning Committee

Subject: **Minneapolis Zoning Code Text Amendment Work Plan**

Recommendation: **Receive and File Zoning Code Text Amendment Work Plan**

Previous directives: **Previous Zoning Code subject matter introductions and referrals to Committee and staff**

Prepared by: Jason Wittenberg, Interim Planning Director, 612-673-2297

Approved by: Jason Wittenberg, Interim Planning Director

Presenters in Committee: Jason Wittenberg. Planning managers may present or respond to questions as well

Community Impact:

- City Goals: Implements and is consistent with the following City Goals: Jobs and Economic Vitality; Livable Communities, Healthy Lives; Eco-Focused
- Comprehensive Plan: Implements and is consistent with *The Minneapolis Plan for Sustainable Growth*.
- Zoning Code various chapters (see attached list)

Background/Supporting Information:

CPED's Planning Division administers, interprets and enforces the Minneapolis Zoning Code. The general purpose of the Code, as stated in section 520.30, is to protect the public health, safety, aesthetics, economic viability and general welfare of the city; to protect the character and stability of residential, commercial and industrial areas within the city; and to promote the orderly and beneficial development of those areas.

A comprehensive revision to the Zoning Code was adopted by the City Council in 1999. Ongoing revisions are recommended and adopted for a variety of reasons, including but not limited to, the need to respond to state law changes and comply with other public agency requirement (e.g., DNR, FEMA, MAC); to ensure consistency with adopted plans; to respond to changing market conditions and development plans where appropriate; to respond to

changing policy direction; and to simplify and implement improved customer service measures where possible.

Proposed Zoning Code amendments vary in scope and complexity. Each amendment has now been classified as primarily falling into one of three categories: (1) Housekeeping/Technical Change; (2) Policy Implementation; and (3) Customer Service/Process Improvement. Staff work on Zoning Code amendments includes research and analysis related to legal authority, best practices, alternatives, possible impacts on other parts of the Zoning Code and other city ordinances, outreach and drafting language. Staff works closely with the City Attorney's Office and affected departments on all amendments. In a "typical" year, roughly 10 zoning code amendments are completed by CPED's Planning staff and adopted by the City Council. Three amendments have been adopted so far in 2012.

The Planning Director brings the Zoning Code Text Amendment Work Plan to the Zoning & Planning Committee for periodic review and consideration.